

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-17 (canceled)

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A load distribution element to be mounted in a vehicle and adapted to be beneath at least one foot of an occupant of the vehicle, the load distribution element comprising a plate, where the plate ~~having~~ has a first region of a predetermined strength and at least one further region of a greater strength, the region of greater strength comprising at least a first area to be located beneath a predetermined part of ~~said one~~ a foot of an occupant of the vehicle.

Claim 19. (Currently Amended): ~~An~~ The load distribution element according to Claim 18, wherein the first area ~~said part of the foot~~ is to be located beneath the heel of the foot of the occupant.

Claim 20. (Original): An element according to Claim 19 wherein said first area is dimensioned to be located beneath the heels of two feet of the occupant.

Claim 21. (Currently Amended): An element according to Claim 19 wherein the further region incorporates a second area which extends adjacent one edge of the element and is adapted to be located under one side of ~~said one~~ the foot of the occupant.

Claim 22. (Currently Amended) An element according to Claim 19 wherein the further region of a greater strength incorporates two further areas which extend adjacent two opposite sides of the element and are adapted to lie under side parts of ~~said two feet~~ of an occupant.

Claim 23. (Currently Amended): ~~An~~ The load distribution element according to Claim 18 wherein the element is substantially rectangular and the further region of greater strength incorporates ~~one~~ another area which extends across the element ~~which~~ and is spaced from said first area.

Claim 24. (Currently Amended): ~~An~~ The load distribution element according to Claim 18 wherein the element includes at least one relatively weak area which has a strength which is less than said predetermined strength.

Claim 25. (Currently Amended): An element according to Claim 32 wherein the relatively weak area is adjacent the second area and is adapted to be located under the other side of ~~said~~ the foot of the occupant.

Claim 26. (Currently Amended): An element according to Claim 33 wherein there are two said relatively weak areas located respectively adjacent said two further areas and adapted to lie under the other side parts of ~~said~~ the feet of the occupant .

Claim 27. (Currently Amended): ~~An~~ The load distribution element according to

Claim 18 ~~provided with~~ further comprising padding to be located between the element and the floor of a vehicle.

Claim 28. (Currently Amended): ~~An~~ The load distribution element according to Claim 18 ~~provided with~~ further comprising an inflatable air-bag to be located between the element and the floor of a vehicle.

Claim 29. (Original): An element according to Claim 28 wherein the element forms part of the upper cover of a housing containing the air-bag.

Claim 30. (Original): An element according to Claim 29 wherein the housing is a damp-proof sealed housing.

Claim 31. (Previously Presented) An element according to Claim 29 wherein the element is connected to the rest of the upper cover by a hinge-line.

Claim 32. (Previously Presented): An element according to Claim 21 wherein the element includes at least one relatively weak area which has a strength which is less than said predetermined strength.

Claim 33. (Previously Presented): An element according to Claim 22 wherein the element includes at least one relatively weak area which has a strength which is less than said predetermined strength.